

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01

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R 251259Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7934

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12503

FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 2080 DTD 25 AUG 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 2080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: SANJAY GANDHI AND THE INDIAN EXPRESS

1. RELIABLE FRIENDLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR HAS GIVEN
US COPY OF VERBATIM RECORD OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN A.K.
AGARWAL, DIRECTOR OF INDIAN EXPRESS AND SON-IN-LAW OF
EXPRESS QODER GOENKA, AND SANJAY GANDHI SOMETIME LAST
WEEK. RECORD OF CONVERSATION PURPORTEDLY WAS PREPARED BY

AGARWAL FOLLOWING THE MEETING, PRESUMABLY FOR HIS OWN
PRIVATE USE.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT AGARWAL (WHO SAYS HE CAME
TO SEE SANJAY "IN MY OWN CAPACITY AS A FRIEND AND CLASS-
MATE") ASKED SANJAY TO MEET GOENKA, ASKED FOR MORE TIME
FOR EXPRESS TO DO SAHJAY'S BIDDING, ASKED SANJAY TO TELL
HIM "WHERE WE HAVE GONE WRONG" AND PLEADED WITH HIM TO
"UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE YOUR FRIEND." SANJAY SAID HE
DID NOT WANT TO MEET GOENKA AND REPEATED, IN RESPONSE
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TO ALMOST EVERY REMARK BY AGARWAL, THAT "I WANT THE

EDITORS REMOVED." WHEN AGARWAL POINTED OUT THAT MULGAOKAR
HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED AND ASKED WHICH OTHERS BESIDES
AJIT HE WANTED OUT, SANJAY REPLIED "I MEAN ALL EDITORS
INCLUDING REGIONAL EDITORS, WHOEVER WE SAY." SANJAY ADDED
THAT "I WANT TO

MOVE THE EDITORS AND PUT PEOPLE OF
OUR CHOICE IN THEIR PLACE. IF MR. GOENKA DOES NOT WISH
TO DO ANYTHING, YOUR PAPERS ARE BOUND TO CLOSE. LET HIM
FIGHT OUT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. YOUR DELHI PAPER
WILL CLOSE DOWN IN FIVE TO SIX MONTHS TIME. OTHER PLACES
WILL CLOSE IN ONE OR TWO YEARS..."

3. WE ARE POUCHING COPY OF DOCUMENT TO EMBASSY POL.
KORN

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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